



Fast Blast

From the California Student Aid Commission

Fast Blast for March 7, 2007

From Diana Fuentes-Michel

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In support of the Commission's ongoing goal of providing California's financial aid community with proactive and current updates, we are providing this update on programs, issues and recent legislation. Please share this with any interested person who may not have received this newsletter.

! Draft Institutional Participation Agreement meeting on Friday, March 9 !

The Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) public meeting for northern California will take place on Friday, March 9, 2007, at California State University-Sacramento (CSUS) in the Redwood Room of the University Union building. CSUS is located at 6000 J Street, Sacramento.

Attendance details- The public meeting will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attendees may park in the newly opened parking structure III (three) or in lots 7 or 8 behind the parking structure on the south side of the CSUS campus. You may access the map link for a map of the campus, a map showing freeway access and an information telephone number at <http://itweb.csus.edu/map/location5.htm>.

There are several lunch options, available after the meeting, in the University Union building, including small restaurants and fast food outlets.

The Commission urges you to attend this IPA public meeting or the Southern California IPA public meeting or Web conference noted below. Staff from other school offices may wish to attend to understand how the IPA may affect their daily operations and procedures pertaining to Cal Grant Program administration. These school offices include financial aid/student services, business services, legal counsel, campus administration, and information technology.

Second public meeting and Web Conference- The Southern California IPA public meeting will take place on Monday, March 12 and the Web conference will take place on Tuesday, March 20. You can find more details on the public meetings, the Web conference and the text of the draft IPA on the Commission's Web site at csac.ca.gov, click on [Draft IPA for Comment](#).

RSVP- We would appreciate an RSVP, as that will help us with planning. If you cannot attend any of the sessions, you may email your comments or call us, using the contact information on the above link.

First Cal Grants awarded last week

The Cal Grant Operations Branch is happy to report that the Commission has begun processing of the 2007-08 year Cal Grant Entitlement awards. These awards are made to students who are graduating from high school this year or who graduated in 2006 and did not receive an award then. So far, more than 13,500 award offers have been made.

Over the next months as all new Cal Grant awards are offered, the Commission expects to exceed 100,000 new award offers.

WebGrants for Students adding about 160 accounts daily

WebGrants for Students has become a popular and helpful service. More than 41,000 students now have personal accounts using the Commission's confidential, online service. Each day in February, about 160 students set up new accounts. Commission records indicate students use the service heavily from about 8 a.m. until nearly 11 p.m., especially on week days. For 2006-07, more than 5,200 school change transactions have been handled directly through *WebGrants for Students*, which may save school financial aid staff some paperwork.

Chafee Grant Program accepting applications –

The federal program that serves current and former foster youth is continuing to accept applications from California youth for the 2006-07 academic year. Beginning mid-March, the Chafee Grant program will be accepting new applications for the 2007-08 academic year. This is the first year the Commission will be accepting two academic year applications simultaneously.

Talk with us- The Commission appreciates any comments or feedback you may have regarding the *Fast Blast*. Please forward your comments to fastblast@csac.ca.gov. If this message reaches school staff who are not currently on the Commission's ListServ and wish to be added, send us a message.

On behalf of the Commission and Commission staff, I want to wish
our financial aid partners a successful financial aid season.



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